been extended to 36 departments in 9 academic institutions in the Karnataka State.

Patents on Scientific Inventions

†1180. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any patent has been obtained at National and International level with regard to scientific and technological inventions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what efforts are being made by Government to obtain help from the individuals and small organizations, for getting the patents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) to (c) Patents have been obtained by Department of Science and Technology, Department of Biotechnology and CSIR in India and foreign countries. 191 patents were granted by foreign countries and 576 in India in the last three years. No help is being taken by the government from individuals and small organizations for getting patents. However, there are a number of schemes through which assistance is provided to individuals and small organizations to obtain patents. The agencies active in this aspect are Patent Facilitating Centre, National Research Development Corporation and National Innovation Foundation.

Research on tea Technology

1181. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state whether Government would consider to introduce research on tea technology and other relevant matters of this technology in Regional Research Laboratory, Jorhat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): No Sir, there is no such proposal under consideration at present.

Relief to Drought/flood hit States

1182. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU):
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that drought hit States are given instant relief and Central Aid but the flood hit States are left to fend for themselves;

(b) if so, the relief and aid given to each drought hit and flood hit State this year; indicating the extent of devastation caused in each State;

(c) whether the inadequate relief granted by the Central Government has resulted in starvation deaths in these States;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any action plan to fight floods in flood-hit States on a permanent footing has been prepared at the national level; and

(f) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (f) The primary responsibility for undertaking necessary measures in the wake of natural calamities, including distribution of relief on the ground is the responsibility of the State Governments concerned. Government of India supplements the efforts of States with financial and logistical support. In response to the memoranda submitted by the States affected by drought/ floods during South West Monsoon period (1.6.2002 to 30.9.2002), the High Level Committee (HLC), in its meeting held on 16th November, 2002, approved total assistance of Rs. 1999.14 crores, subject to adjustment of available balances in the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) of respective States. The assistance approved is for a period of three months in the first instance and is liable to be reviewed in the middle of January, 2003, having regard to the latest situation on the drought front.

Losses of Sail Plants

†1183. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the plant-wise details of the profit made or loss suffered by the plants controlled by the 'SAIL' during the last three years;

(b) whether there is any scheme to separate Bhilai Steel Plant earning profit since its inception, from the 'SAIL' and privatize other plants; and

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.